may be a colour adaptation. But the extant accounts of the colour of this Dolphin vary—quite possibly in accordance with real **variations,** sncii as are exhibited by ***Inia*** **already** rpoken of. *Pontoporia* ***"blainmllii*** **is a smallish Dolphin** some 4 **feet** *', **length.**

Fossil **Odontocetes. — Several** of the existing genera of IDolpMns are also known in a fossil condition, as well as **Ziphioid Whales** closely **related** to existing **forms. We** shall deal here only with a few genera **of** fossil Odontocetes which depart in. their structure **from** existing forms.

The genus ***Physodon*** is Miocene, and lias **been f jund** in Patagonia. It appears to be **most** nearly allied to **the** Phy.** **;rida<?,** but should probably forma **distinct family,** ***JPItysfirfifn*** v,;~;, :.ot ?c large as ***Physeter,*** the skull measuring **only fr-rune** 10 fe^t. It thus comes nearer in point of size to ***JCogla,*** and it **is interceding** to note that its **relatively-shorter snout** is also **suggestive of the-dwarf** Cachalot. The general outline **of the** skull is, however, more like that of ***P7i-yseter,*** and there is the **same** deep cavity for the **lodgment of spermaceti. The main** feature of interest in the skull is the presence of teeth in both **jaws,** and the fact that two or three are lodged in the premaxiliae. **This** is precisely what is found in the most ancient "Whales, **the Zeuglodonts.**

Extinct Dolphins, apparently referable to the **Platanistidae,** are the most numerous among the earlier **forms** of Cetaceans, and it is significant that the earliest known, forms of these go back to the Eocene.

The genus ***Xniopsis*** of Mr. Lydekker,[1] with one species, *I. caucasica,* comes from rocks which seem to be of that age. The back part of the skull of this animal, the only part of the skull known, has the same squarish excavation of the maxillaries that characterises *Inia* and ***Pontoporia.*** Its lower jaw was slender and possessed numerous teeth,

The long snout and-jaws of Platanistids, especially exaggerated in *Pontoporia* among living forms, are constantly found in **these** Tertiary Platanistids,

SurJiinodelphis had a beak three and a half times the length **of** the **cranium,** whereas in *Pontoporia* the proportions are as 2 : 1. The **teeth too were** very numerous,

The genus ***^Arf/yrocet'M^,*** from **Patagonian** Tertiary strata, was an animal **about** as large as the existing Dolphin. It had **the**

[1] ***Proc. Zovl.*** *Soc,* **1892, p. 558.**